

BULLETIN FOR CYCLONIC ACTIVITY AND SIGNIFICANT TROPICAL WEATHER
IN THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN

DATE: 26/01/2026 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Nil.

PART 2 : TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

The basin displays a Monsoon Trough (MT) configuration across its whole width, between 06S and 15S. Convection is moderate in convergence areas along the northern side of the MT and near Madagascar.

Our basin is currently under the influence of a dry phase of the MJO, which is not conducive to cyclogenesis. However, as an equatorial Rossby wave crosses a Kelvin wave over the western part of the basin in the coming days, the northwesterly monsoon flow should strengthen and make conditions more favorable for cyclogenesis on both sides of Madagascar from the middle of the week.

North of the Mascarene archipelago :

In relation, to a surge in the monsoon flow forecast for the coming days, a low-pressure system is expected to form north of the Mascarene Islands by Wednesday. Some ensemble models, notably the EPS, suggest a possible development into a tropical storm on Wednesday or Thursday. However, the lack of convergence in the lower layers on the south side and the presence of a north-westerly shear on the edge of an upper-level cut-off are likely to limit the potential for development. Even if it does not intensify, this low-pressure system could move close to Réunion or Mauritius on Thursday or Friday.

The risk of tropical storm formation north of the Mascarene archipelago is expected to become low from Wednesday 28th.

In the Mozambique Channel :

A low-pressure system could form in the central part of the Mozambique Channel from Wednesday 28th. Its potential for development is likely to be limited initially due to dry air in the mid-troposphere and weak low-level convergence on the southern side. However, if a low-pressure system does develop, it could benefit from a favorable environment with good upper divergence, low wind shear, and very warm surface waters (above 29°C). The AI models, as well as Arome and its ensemble, are particularly reactive. Regardless of whether cyclogenesis occurs, very heavy rainfall is likely throughout the coming week over the Comoros archipelago, northwestern Madagascar, and northern Mozambique in the powerful and persistent monsoon flow established on the margins of this system.

The likelihood for the formation of a tropical storm in the centre of the Mozambique Channel is expected to become low from Wednesday 28th then moderate from Thursday 29th.

10-day outlook :

The arrival of a new Rossby wave from the east of the basin early February could improve low-level convergence within the MT and enhance cyclogenesis potential over the central and eastern part of the basin.

NOTA BENE: The likelihood is an estimate of the chance of genesis of a moderate tropical storm over the basin within the next five days:

Very low: less than 10% Moderate: 30% to 60% Very high: over 90%
Low: 10% to 30% High: 60% to 90%

The Southwestern Indian ocean basin extends from the Equator to 40S and from the african coastlines to 90E.